



south carolina  
**STATE LIBRARY**

*More Monthly Newsletter*

Vol. 56 No. 5, May 2021

## A Message From Our Agency Director

To everything, there is a time and a season. It is with congratulations and a twinge of sadness that we bid farewell to our long-term, valued employee, Brenda Boyd, who is retiring.

Ms. Brenda Boyd has worked at the South Carolina State Library for thirty-eight years. Brenda is a graduate of South Carolina State College, where she obtained her bachelor's degree. She also attended the University of South Carolina, where she earned a Master of Library and Information Science degree.



Brenda has worked in several areas of the library. You may have received assistance from Brenda during her long tenure as a Reference Librarian. Her ability to find obscure information is well known and appreciated by our patrons and state employees doing research. Brenda has most recently dedicated her time and talents to serving as a Reader Advisor in our Talking Book Services area. Her personal touch, listening ear, and helpful disposition made her a requested favorite of our patrons. I know that many of them will miss her as we will.

Brenda received national recognition as the recipient of the Julie Klauber Award in 2019 for her service to the library and the greater community. Brenda has enjoyed coordinating the annual Talking Book Services Student Art Gallery and Awards Ceremony and, in fact, made it her last official duty before retiring. Brenda has been a dedicated and loyal state servant and has tirelessly promoted accessibility and inclusivity through outreach.

Brenda has been a faithful team player, organizing and creating decorations for several celebrations and events for staff. Brenda is a detailed person but also a natural talent for flower arranging and art and aesthetics. Her innovative approach to events always led to beautifully appointed, thoughtful gatherings.

Brenda performed the duties and responsibilities of her position admirably, consistently going above and beyond expectations and the call of duty. We are grateful for the many years of service and devotion that Brenda Boyd has given to the State Library and the state of South Carolina. We wish her well as she enters retirement and trust that she will find much enjoyment in her family reunion organization, DIY projects, and the more leisurely pace of the days ahead.

Thank You,



Leesa M. Aiken  
Director, South Carolina State Library

---

## UPCOMING events

### **Information Literacy- News | 05/12/2021**

Learn to spot fake news and find reliable sources to provide patrons with accurate, unbiased information.

[READ MORE](#)

---

### **Early Literacy with Betsy Diamant-Cohen | 05/19/2021**

Whether in person or virtual, this webinar helps library staff create engaging workshops for childcare providers and other early learning partners.

[READ MORE](#)

---

### **Create a Winning Proposal | 05/26/2021**

Discover the key components necessary for creating a winning proposal for nonprofits and success strategies for what to do after you receive the grant.

[READ MORE](#)

---

**We're Open!**



Closing our doors to the public was one of the most challenging parts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the closure, we managed to provide continued services virtually. It is exciting to announce that we are now available for in-person services. Stop by for reference assistance, to drop off or pick up materials, do genealogy research, or get help with Talking Books Services. Lounging space is not available. Mask up and come see us!



## Rapid Results: Strategic Planning Refresher, Part Two

This two-part series is appropriate for library directors or administrators anticipating a strategic planning process. The webinars are follow-ups and refreshers for library staff who participated in our November 2019 strategic planning training. Training facilitators, Stu Wilson, and Alayne Hopkins will help reboot plans following the COVID-19 pandemic. [This second session](#) highlights new considerations, including equity and diversity, planning for tiny libraries, and tips to conduct small group remote sessions.



## Learn to Talk Each Other's Language: Librarians and Childcare Providers

This training helps familiarize children's librarians with the similarities and differences between the Every Child Ready to Read and Palmetto Basics programs, making it easier to work with childcare providers and other early literacy professionals. We'll help you transform resources into helpful tools to strengthen Every Child Ready to Read practices using the principles of Palmetto Basics. [Register and join us.](#)

## Always Inspiring

The Young Minds Dreaming poetry contest debuted in 2017 as a companion celebration of poetry to the May Hill Arbuthnot Lecture sponsored by the Association for Library Services to Children and awarded to the South

Carolina State Library. Since that inaugural year, the State Library has hosted this contest and celebrated the winners with such award-winning poets and writers as Jacqueline Woodson, Kwame Alexander, and Juan Felipe Herrera. We completed the contest in 2020 but could not recognize the winners in a celebration with Pat Mora, our planned guest. Luckily, Pat was willing to join us for a dual-year celebration! We are proud to announce the [2021 Young Minds Dreaming winners](#) who shared with us their poems about inspiration and being inspired!

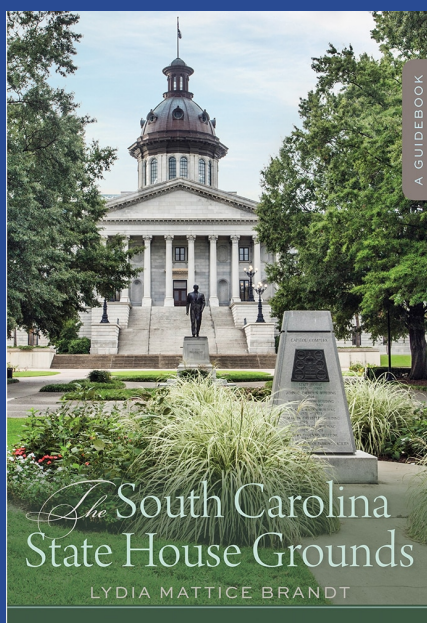
# Young Minds Dreaming

Student Poetry Contest



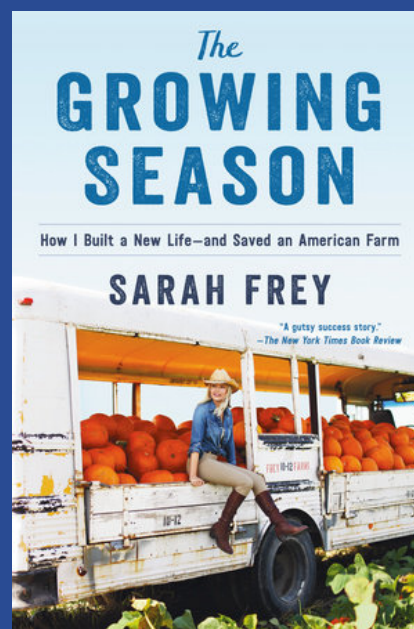
## Share Your Story

BibliObservatory hosts Caroline Smith and Ivette Villarreal want to hear from you. Their podcast aims to discover the connection between people's favorite books or childhood stories and how those stories define their lives. Some episodes are also provided in Spanish. Nomination forms are available [in English](#) and [Spanish](#) on our website.



## A Guiding Companion

The design of this new guidebook to the SC State House can accompany you while touring the grounds. Dr. Lydia Mattice Brandt explains her writing style and shares stunning discoveries with Dr. Curtis Rogers [in this Library Voices SC podcast](#). The book, [The South Carolina State House Grounds: A Guidebook](#), is published by the [University of South Carolina Press](#) and documents the history



## Growing More than Crops

The New York Times describes Sarah Frey as "the Pumpkin Queen of America," selling more pumpkins than any other producer in the United States. Running [Frey Farms](#) taught Sarah about more than turning a family business into a massive fruit and vegetable supplier; it taught her about the seasons of life. She aims to inspire people in the recent book, *The Growing Season*. Hear her story

of State House monuments and people's response to them. Listen online at [Podbean](#), [Stitcher](#), [TuneIn Radio](#), or your favorite podcast app.

in this [Library Voices SC podcast](#). Listen online at [Podbean](#), [Stitcher](#), [TuneIn Radio](#), or your favorite podcast app.



## Don't Be Quiet

We are pleased to offer a three-hour, self-paced course for library staff on Niche Academy called, [Don't Be Quiet: Trauma-Informed Responses in Libraries](#). SCCADVASA, the [South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault](#), helped design the curriculum to support safer spaces within South Carolina Libraries, focusing on domestic and sexual violence and related issues. The goal is to help library staff understand and identify the patterns and behaviors associated with domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. Participants will also learn response strategies and which resources are available to aid with prevention and intervention. [Visit our website for access information and additional details.](#)



## Making SC Better in 750 Words or Less

Lucia Stevick-Brown, a senior at the South Carolina Governor's School for Science and Mathematics, wins first prize in the annual [South Carolina High School Writing Contest](#). Her essay, "I Will Always Be a Product of South Carolina Public Schools," gave an intriguing answer to the contest prompt: How can we make South Carolina better? "This isn't just the work of a remarkable burgeoning writer, it is the work of a future champion for the public good – and our Palmetto State always needs more of those," Judge Jonathan Haupt commented. Stevick-Brown will



## Celebrate Reading Year Round

April 30 marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Children's Day, Book Day! Children's Day, Book Day, in Spanish, El día de los niños, el día de los libros, is a year-long commitment to celebrating all of our children and motivating them to be readers. We spent time with Día creator, award-winning author, and literacy advocate Pat Mora, to discuss its importance and why family members should encourage reading. [In this video](#), Mora shares advice for aspiring writers and poets, how to share the joy of books and reading with children, along with readings of a few of her own

receive the Walter Edgar Award, which includes \$1,000. Presenting partners include the Pat Conroy Literary Center, the South Carolina Academy of Authors, the South Carolina Writers Association, and the South Carolina State Library.

poems.

## CONNECT WITH US!

@SCStateLibrary | #SCStateLibrary

